

Council

18 July 2023

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership - Councillor G Duggins

**Director approving submission of the report:**

Chief Legal Officer

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

**Title:**

Local Government Boundary Review – Response to Consultation on Warding Patterns

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**Is this a key decision?**

No. Although, the proposals could have a significant impact on residents or businesses in two or more electoral wards in the City, this report responds to a consultation and the Council will not make the final decision on this matter.

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**Executive summary:**

The Local Government Boundary Commission have commenced an electoral review of Coventry. The review will look at whether the boundaries of wards within the local authority need to be altered to ensure fairer representation at local government elections.

Coventry City Council meets the Commission's criteria for electoral inequality with 6 of 18 wards (33%) having a variance over 10%. In addition, the last electoral review of Coventry City Council was completed in 2003, meeting the Commission's duty, set out in law, to review every authority from 'time to time'. The Commission has interpreted this to be about 12 – 14 years.

This report seeks the Council's views on whether or not to submit a response to the consultation on warding patterns.

**Council is requested to approve one of the following options:**

1. That Council does not make a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, or
2. That Council approves Appendix 1 of the report as the Council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as the City Council's submission on the consultation on warding patterns for Coventry, or

3. That Council considers and approves any other proposed warding pattern submissions as the Council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as the City Council's response to the consultation on warding patterns.

**List of Appendices included:**

The following appendices are attached to the report:

Appendix 1 – Option for a warding patterns submission to the LGBCE

**Background papers:**

List here:

Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Electoral Review of Coventry City Council – A Guide for Councillors

**Other useful documents**

List here:

**Has it or will it be considered by scrutiny?**

No – matter reserved to Council.

**Has it or will it be considered by any other council committee, advisory panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

Yes – 18 July, 2023

**Report title:**

Local Government Boundary Review – Response to Consultation on Warding Patterns

**1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) commenced its review of Coventry City Council in October 2022.
- 1.2. On 21 March 2023 the Council approved the submission to the LGBCE to recommend that the number of Councillors remained at 54, which they have confirmed they are minded to approve.
- 1.3. Following this, the LGBCE have launched a consultation on the warding patterns for the City based on an average ward size of 13,848 electors per ward and an average of 4,616 per Councillor.
- 1.4. Any proposal submitted to the LGBCE needs to meet their three criteria for submitting warding patterns:
  - 1.4.1. Proposed wards should leave each Councillor representing roughly the same number of electors.
  - 1.4.2. Proposed wards should – as far as possible – reflect community interests and identities, and boundaries should be identifiable.
  - 1.4.3. Proposed wards should promote effective and convenient local government
- 1.5. Appendix 1 contains an option on warding patterns for the City for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission's in response to their consultation.

**2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

The options are ;-

1. That Council does not make a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, or
2. That Council approves Appendix 1 of the report as the Council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as the City Council's submission on the consultation on warding patterns for Coventry, or
3. That Council considers and approves any other proposed warding pattern submissions as the Council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as the City Council's response to the consultation on warding patterns.

**3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1. None required for this report.

**4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1. This report is the preliminary stages of the review. The consultation on warding patterns concludes on 31 July 2023. The next stage will commence on 31 October 2023 when the consultation on the draft recommendations will commence and the final recommendations for the Local Government Boundary Commission will be implemented at the local elections in May 2026.

**5. Comments from Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Chief Legal Officer**

**5.1. Financial Implications**

None in relation to this report.

**5.2. Legal Implications**

The LGBCE is an independent body established by Parliament in April 2010. The LGBCE has a statutory duty to undertake electoral reviews.

**6. Other implications**

**6.1. How will this contribute to the One Council Plan ()?**

The LGBCE is conducting an electoral review of Coventry City Council to ensure fairer representation at local government elections.

**6.2. How is risk being managed?**

There are no risks associated with this report.

**6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?**

None in relation to this report.

**6.4. Equalities / EIA?**

No equalities impact assessment has been completed in relation to this report.

**6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?**

None.

**6.6. Implications for partner organisations?**

None.

**Report author(s):**

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Members: Cllr George Duggins	Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership	-	06/07/23	7/7/23

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